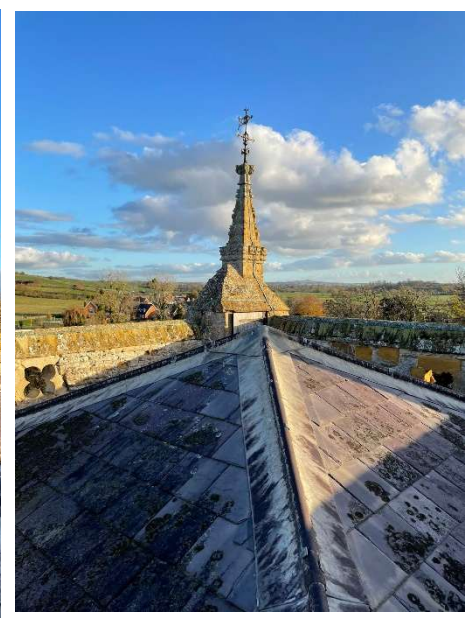
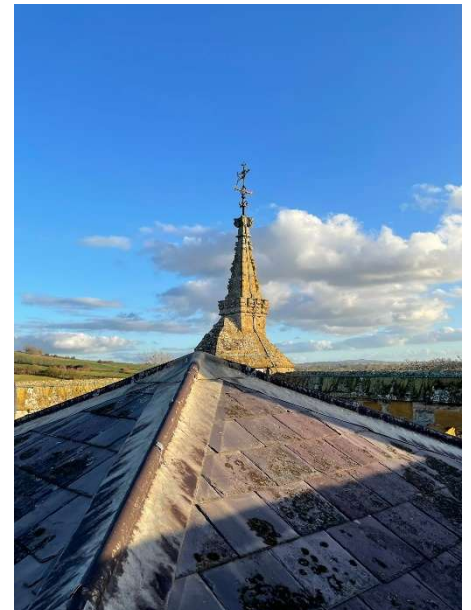


Village Voices

The newsletter of Halford and Alderminster

March 2026



Photographs courtesy of Rebecca Lockwood

(We love to include your seasonal or topical photographs in this newsletter; please send them to Stephen.scott6@btinternet.com)

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Alderminster News

IN MEMORIAM

Vaughan Booth

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing away of Vaughan Booth on Friday 13th February. Although Vaughan lived in Halford, he was a regular member of the Alderminster Church family and had been a member of the Worship planning group that helped organise Services. Not only will he be missed as a regular reader, where his beautiful speaking voice brought such a richness to every Lesson he read, but he will be missed as a friend as will his warm smile and cheerful joking disposition. Rest in Peace Vaughan.

CHURCH NEWS

The full list of Services is printed separately in Village Voices. Everyone is welcome to any of the Services in our beautiful iconic Village Church. Coffee and biscuits are usually served afterwards, so why not come along?

Foodbank: If you wish to donate items to the Shipston Foodbank, please bring them in a bag to the church porch between 10.30 and 11.30 every Saturday; hopefully Jane will be there to meet you, otherwise please leave any items in a carrier bag in the porch.

Fundraising: There are several events planned for 2026, which we will update as the year progresses and give more details nearer each event. These include:

Winter warmers lunch: The final winter warmers lunch will take place on **Monday March 2nd** in Alderminster Village Hall 12.30-2.30pm (last order 1.30pm), with soup and a pudding for £5. Come along and join friends and neighbours.

Wine tasting: Friday 13 March 2026 in Alderminster Village Hall 7.30pm. Price £27.50 per person. To join in the fun and reserve a place please contact Zoe on 01789 450613 or zoescott@btinternet.com. More details to follow next month.

Coffee Morning: Weds 18 March, 10.30-12 noon at Alderminster Lodge - no charge but donations welcome

Cantamus Concert: in the Church - **Saturday 25 April**. Contact Carol at carol.burdekin@btinternet.com for further details.

Church Teas: every Sunday afternoon in June, more details to follow or contact Jane at jane.tithemeadow@btinternet.com

Many thanks to everyone who joined us at the Quiz evening on Friday 13th February. It was a huge success with a full house and a range of questions from relatively easy all the way up to fiendishly testing. It was enjoyed by all and raised a total of £850 for the Church funds.

If anyone has any ideas to raise money or of possible community events that could be put on in the Church, then please get in touch with Rebecca Lockwood at rebeccalockwood3@gmail.com

Church Tower

We are delighted to announce that, with help from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, we have raised a total of nearly £164,000 which more than meets our funding target for the Tower Restoration Project. This means that the project can go ahead this year, and further bulletins will be issued when the precise timing of the work is clearer.

We still need to raise funds to repair the clock (see below), which ideally, we would like to coordinate with the tower work if possible.

Many thanks to all who have donated so generously so far and expressed an interest in supporting this major project to maintain an iconic building at the heart of the village which is a huge part of the community.

There are currently two displays in the Church, one has been created by the Tower Restoration Project team and the other by the Alderminster History Group, both offer an insight into the history of our wonderful Church, please go in and take a look.

Please remember that the Churchyard and path are used by many villagers and needs constant work to keep it safe and in good condition. Please note that although the path down to and along the riverbank is now open, anyone who uses it does so at their own risk, especially when there has been bad weather or flooding.

Church Clock

A full overhaul of the clock is required which will be extremely costly, and a number of ways to raise the funds to cover this are being looked at.

Bell Ringing

Listen out for the bell ringers practicing, generally on a Thursday evening, but also before the 11.00am Service on the second Sunday of each month. If you would like to learn, or would like more information, please contact Rebecca Lockwood (rebeccalockwood3@gmail.com)

PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Monday 16th March** 2026 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council; if you think that it is something that you may be interested in please contact The Parish Clerk at alderminsterpc@gmail.com for more information.

ALDERMINSTER VILLAGE HALL

The Village needs the Village Hall but the Hall needs you and your support!

The Village Hall and its facilities are available for hire at very reasonable rates. Jane Jones has all the information on 01789 450672. The Hall has day time space for classes; if you know of anyone who wants to run an exercise class or other activity please put them in touch with Jane.

Breakfast: Breakfast is the 3rd public event in the hall in March. On **Saturday 7th** between 8.30 and 10am if we're lucky the sun might be shining, if not we can cheer ourselves up with a bargain freshly cooked breakfast. Drinks and toast included, payment by card or cash, all proceeds to the Hall.

Curling: Curling takes place on **Wednesday 4th** and **18th March** (2.30-4pm), and 'Warm Space' on **Mondays 9th** and **23rd March** (2pm-4pm). Curling involves playing in a team but you can drop into Warm Space, when you feel like it for 10 mins or the full session.

Alderminster Cinema: Our March film will be shown on **Saturday 21st** when there is another chance to see "Brooklyn"(12) if you missed it when it came out 10 years ago. It's a drama set in New York and Ireland in the 1950's, based on the book by Colm Toibin. Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30 following refreshments; you are welcome to bring your own drinks and snacks.

Alderminster Village Hall 50 Club: The winners of the February 2026 draw were:-

1st - No. 10 – Chick Webb £20

2nd - No. 33 – Margaret Woodward £10

3rd - No. 28 – John Hutchins £5

Any queries or for purchase of numbers call Neville Palmer (01789 555930 or 078101 45420).

Litter Pick: Many thanks to those who turn up and help at the monthly Saturday morning village litter pick. The next litter pick is on **Saturday 14th March** when we'll meet at the Village Hall at 11am; all equipment is provided. Why not come along and join in, everyone is welcome.

MEGA

Monday Evening Group Alderminster

On **Sunday 22nd March**, MEGA will be holding a celebration lunch to celebrate its 25th anniversary. This event is aimed primarily at current and past members of the club. There will be a welcome drink and canapes on arrival followed by a hot meal. Music will be provided by David Willets. Places must be booked by **March 8th**.

For more information contact Pauline on 07810 442651 or Rita on 01789 748084

ALDERMINSTER GARDENING CLUB

Following the AGM in January the club has a full programme for the year with seven meetings in the hall, two afternoon garden visits and a joint coach trip to the new RHS Badminton Flower show with the Farm Womens' Club. Subs are due now (£15) and visitors are welcome (to the meetings) at £3 pp.

On **Tuesday 10th** we welcome Derek Bull who will give a talk on "The History of Hidcote Gardens." The meeting starts at 7.30 in the Hall and the members' competition will be "a flowering shrub." To book on any of the outings sign up at the next meeting or ring Gill on 01789 621053 or email gillieh46@yahoo.co.uk

Gill's Green Tips: If the weather is sunny you can get rid of all the weeds which have survived the winter, but keep off the soil if it is waterlogged. If you have lots of snowdrops in your garden now is the time to thin them out when they've finished flowering. Dig them up and give them away to friends or plant them under hedges. If you have daffodils in your garden, deadhead them when the flowers are over and feed with bonemeal to encourage flowers for next year. When it dries up you can make early sowings of broad beans, peas, beetroot or lettuce, and if you have a heated propagator, sow some bedding plants such as tobacco plants.

ALDERMINSTER HISTORY GROUP

100 years since The Stratford Memorial Theatre was destroyed by fire.

The following is an edited extract from the Stratford Herald detailing the events of Saturday 6th March 1926 by Edith Stanley.

“Early on a Saturday afternoon we hear the siren at the fire station and a cry goes round, “The Theatre is on fire!” It is said “One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin”: even so did our townspeople in a common danger become as one large family, united in their efforts to save the treasures in the building. In a miraculously short space of time this priceless collection of books, pictures and relics is carried to safety. In the Bancroft Gardens the scene is an unforgettable one. The once trim lawn is now ploughed up by fire engines. Thousands of spectators are watching the flames creep higher and higher, the roof is seen blazing. This falls in with a crash destroying all the interior stage and scenery. The silver Avon, usually the scene of gaiety is giving its waters to quench this roaring furnace, but it is obvious that the theatre is doomed. The tower is like a huge chimney on fire. No visitors happened to be inside at the time or their fate would have been a terrible one. The fire is now under control and the fire engines are taken away. Though much inconvenience may be felt through this unforeseen disaster the silver lining may be clearly seen through the cloud. A temporary setting will be found until another theatre is built. Let it be a National and Imperial one this time. The old theatre is no more! No tolling of bells or solemn music marks its passing but we mourn it with all our hearts.”



Next Event: “Katherine of Aragon” – The first wife of Henry VIII, a remarkable, well-educated and shrewd woman but she failed in one thing! - a talk by Dr Gillian White. **Tuesday 24th March**, Alderminster Village Hall, 7.30pm. Entrance £5 (includes refreshments). Raffle.

website: alderminsterhistorygroup.org.uk e-mail: info@alderminsterhistorygroup.org.uk

AMBLERS

On a rare sunny and dry Wednesday in early February six amblers and Daisy the dog had a lovely walk from Brailles village hall to Winderton church where we enjoyed the spectacular views with our coffee before making our way back. Next amble is **Wednesday 4th March**, meet at Alderminster Village Hall at 10am.

If you are interested in the amblers and want to go on the mailing list please contact alisonkbenton@outlook.com or ring 01789 450703.

ALDERMINSTER BELLES

Hi Ladies, Alderminster Belles always meet on the first Monday of the month. Please join us, it is a good way to catch up with old and new ladies (everyone is welcome) from 7 o'clock onwards at The Bell pub. Our next meeting is on **Monday 2nd March**. Until we meet, as always, keep cheerful, healthy and safe. Jane x

MORE ABOUT ALDERMINSTER ?

Visit: www.alderminster-pc.gov.uk

Village Voices is available on the Parish Council website www.alderminster-pc.gov.uk/village-voices

The deadline for the April 2026 edition of Village Voices is Thursday 19th March 2026.

WINE TASTING

Please come and enjoy an evening tasting
'Wines from the Mediterranean'
led by
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ALDERMINSTER VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 13th MARCH

7.30pm

£27.50 per person

Email zoescott@btinternet.com to book your place

All profits raised will go towards the upkeep of
Alderminster Church



St Mary and The Holy cross, Alderminster

Tower Restoration Project

GREAT NEWS!

This project is essential to help us preserve the Parish Church, an iconic building, an important part of our Village's Heritage and a vital asset to our rural community, for the benefit of this and future generations.

The Bell Tower now needs urgent repairs to the stonework, parapet and finials. Without repair the Tower will deteriorate further putting the entire structure at risk resulting in the inevitable closure of the Church and Churchyard. Action is needed now to give the building an inspiring future.

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant of £118,937 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund for this project which, together with funding of £45,000 raised from generous donations by the community and other grant-giving bodies, the project is now able to go ahead in 2026.

This great news for our community means that our Bell Tower and Church Building can be secured for the future. We will continue to issue updates as the Project Implementation unfolds and will invite the Community to join with us to celebrate the start of the Restoration work as soon as we have dates.

Thank you all for your support, generosity and encouragement as we navigate this important and significant project.

3 February 2026

Further Information

*The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary and the Holy Cross, Alderminster
Contact Nick Keegan (PCC Secretary) at nick.keegan@btinternet.com*



Halford News

IN MEMORIAM

Janet Froud

Jenny, Richard and Andrew Froud and their families are sad to announce the death of their mother Janet Froud, aged 82 on Tuesday, 10th February after a short illness. Married to Tony for almost 60 years, they had lived in Halford for over 50 years, first in Orchard House and then at Oaktree Barn. All those who knew her are welcome to join us to celebrate her life and share memories on Thursday, 12th March at 2pm at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre Circle Bar.

Saint Mary's Church Halford

Lent Lunch.

This year's Lent Lunch at St Mary's will take place in Halford Village Hall. All are welcome to come along and share homemade soups etc. The date for your diaries is **Wednesday, 4th March** at 1:30pm.

All donations received will be passed on to Shipston Food Bank.

Why not come along and participate in a warm friendly atmosphere. You will be made most welcome.

Easter Clean up.

A clean up of the Church will take place before Easter on the **21st March** from 10am onwards. No need to register just come along and supply some elbow grease. Your help would be most welcome.

Parish Council Meeting.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be taking place on Wednesday evening the **4th March** at 6:30pm in the Halford Bridge Inn. Any resident is entitled to attend and ask anything of the Council regarding village matters.

Nicholas Gale 01789 741907 lomasbarn@btinternet.com

Chairman Halford Parish Council and Church Correspondent

Village Hall Lottery

Congratulations to the January winners:

Jan & Andy Redhead, Peter Richardson, Stuart Gill.

The February draw took place at the village coffee morning on 18th February and the winners were:

Steve & Emma Sandiford, Bryan & Sarah Stoten, Stuart Gill

Thanks to everyone who has supported the lottery this year - there are still a few numbers left if anyone else would like to join.

Graham Sara 07970 010398 glsara@yahoo.com

Halford Village Hall

Monday 9th & 23rd March: Table Tennis at 7:30pm all welcome. Contact Di at dibjones1@gmail.com to confirm dates and for more information on joining this Monday group. There's always room for more!

Tuesday evenings: Yoga at 7:30pm with Deborah - Please contact Deborah at lazycatyoga@btinternet.com or on 01789 740321 for information on dates etc.

Wednesday evenings: Cornhole – 7pm to 9pm for more information contact Geoff on 07812 142463 or at IsGeoff@hotmail.com.

Thursday 5th March: Evening with Film - will show "Roofman". Based on the true story of Jeffrey Manchester (Channing Tatum), a charming fugitive who escapes prison after robbing several McDonald's and hide out in a Toys "R" Us, but when he falls for Leigh (Kirsten Dunst), his double life begins to unravel. Doors open 7pm for a 7:30pm start and a donation of £5 would be appreciated to cover costs.

Wednesday 18th March: Coffee Morning 10:30am to 12pm all welcome.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 5th April: Evening with Film – TBC

If you are interested in booking the Village Hall, all the hiring information including costs can be found on www.halfordvillage.uk/village-hall. For booking enquiries, please contact Muriel Parr on 01789 740857 or murielparr@gmail.com



Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome, through the letterbox at Mistletoe Cottage or by email to jmarthur53@gmail.com **Deadline for April issue - 17th March.**

Local Noticeboard

CARERS4CARERS

Carers4Carers – your local support group for family carers. We usually meet on the fourth Friday of the month (except December) from 10:30 to 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall. Loved ones are welcome too - they can join our Companionship Group during the meeting.

Friday 27th March - Citizens Advice. We're welcoming Lynne Morris, Reach Out and Help caseworker with Citizens Advice South Warwickshire to tell us about the work of Citizens Advice and, in particular, their home-visiting service for people who struggle to access support in person.

For further details about our group or help with transport arrangements to/from our meetings, please contact Gillian on 07947 893504, send an email to kcarers4carers@gmail.com, or explore our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk

ALDERMINSTER HISTORY GROUP

Next Event: A talk by Dr Gillian White. "Katherine of Aragon" The first wife of Henry VIII, a remarkable, well-educated and shrewd woman but she failed in one thing!

Tuesday 24th March, Alderminster Village Hall 7.30pm. Entrance £5 (includes refreshments). Raffle.

FRANKLY FISH & CHIPS

This popular mobile service will be at Alderminster Village Hall car park on the last Saturday of each month between 6.45-7pm. Email van66orders@gmail.com
You can order in advance by Text or call 07483 803475 (optional). Cash or Card.

WARWICKSHIRE MOBILE LIBRARY

On **Thursdays 26th February** and **26th March** Warwickshire Mobile Library will visit Old Road, Alderminster from 10.15 to 10.35am and The White Hart Inn, Newbold on Stour from 10.45 to 11.15am.

STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunday 22nd March 2026, 2.30pm at The Greig Hall, Alcester B49 6AD

Brahms - Academic Festival Overture

Dvorak - The Noonday Witch

Mozart - Horn Concerto No.4

Glazunov - Symphony No 6

Tickets £15 (£5 under16) from: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FAUH>

Further details and forthcoming concerts www.stratfordsymphony.org.uk

BREAST SCREENING

Ladies who are over 70 are entitled to a mammogram every 3 years but will not be called automatically. Contact the Breast screening service on 02476 967200 who will be able to tell you when you had your last scan and give you an appointment if you are now due for one

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Stratford-upon-Avon Astronomical Society meets every first and third Tuesday at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a Club Night; in March that will be on **3rd March**, and the speaker on the third **Tuesday 17th March 2026** will be Dr Steve Barrett from Liverpool University, with a talk called "**The Beginning of Everything**". Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

Club Nights offer more information on what to look out for each month. If it is clear we do some observing just outside the Village Hall, so please join us. There is no charge initially to come along and find out more, but if you do want to become a member then the fee is just £15 a year and it's free if you are in full-time education. For more details go to the website <http://www.astro.org.uk> or contact the Chair, John Waller john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188.

March 2026



Dear Friends,

Over the past few weeks, I have been thinking a lot about what it means to share a meal with someone. Over the years I've shared many meals, BBQ's, Afternoon Tea, Harvest suppers, Burns Night and Passover meals. As I sit down to these meals both with people I know quite well and with others I barely know at all, it has been wonderful to see how the food on the table brings us together - it lightens the mood, it shifts the dynamic, develops rapport and it strengthens the bonds that we are building.

The food can become a topic of conversation and leads to discovering shared experiences and interests. At one of these meals, someone humorously recounted his childhood when he was the slowest eater in his family and everyone would have to sit and wait for him to be finished before they could move on to dessert. At a community Christmas dinner, a number of us discussed a shared love of Brussels sprouts, whilst others groaned. Both of these moments were full of laughter and developed or deepened friendships.

The connections that are built when sharing a meal, whether it's with your family or with others, are powerful. Food is not only meant to sustain and nourish us, but it's also meant to fulfil us. It's intended to be pleasurable and enjoyable and to offer social connection. Church services are meant to be like this - to refresh us, feed us spiritually, to build community and communion together. Different services can be like different meals and sharing meals is a fundamental component to our physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Over meals we can talk, be silent and listen, ask questions, eat, drink and be merry. So as we sit down for breakfast, whether with family, friends, or neighbours, I hope that we are able to savour not only the flavours on our palates, but also the connections that we build.

Come and join our Lent Lunch and share not only a lovely home made soup and roll, but companionship and friendship.

Rev'd Nicki

STOURDENE BENEFICE SERVICE ROTA – March 2026

MARCH, 2026	Time	Church	Service Type
Sunday 1st	9.30am	Newbold	Morning Worship
	9.30am	Halford	CW Communion
LENT 2	11am	Ettington	CW Communion
	11am	Alderminster	Morning Worship
	11am	Pillertons	Morning Worship
	6pm	Butlers	Evensong
Wednesday 4th	9.30am	Newbold	CW Communion
Sunday 8th	8.30am	Pillertons Priors Village Hall	BCP Communion
LENT 3	9.30am	Butlers Marston	CW Communion
	9.30am	Halford	Morning Worship
	10am	Ettington	Morning Worship
	11am	Alderminster	CW Communion
Sunday 15th	8.30am	Ettington	BCP Communion
LENT 4	9.30am	Halford	Morning Worship
	9.30am	Alderminster	CW Communion
	9.30am	Butlers Marston	Family Service
	11am	Pillertons	Morning Worship
	11am	Newbold	CW Communion
MOTHERING SUNDAY			
Sunday 22nd	8.30am	Halford	CW Communion
LENT 5	9.30am	Pillertons	CW Communion
	10am	Ettington	Café Church
	10am	Alderminster	Morning Worship
	11am	Butlers Marston	BCP Communion
Sunday 29th PALM SUNDAY	10.30am	HALFORD	BENEFICE SERVICE

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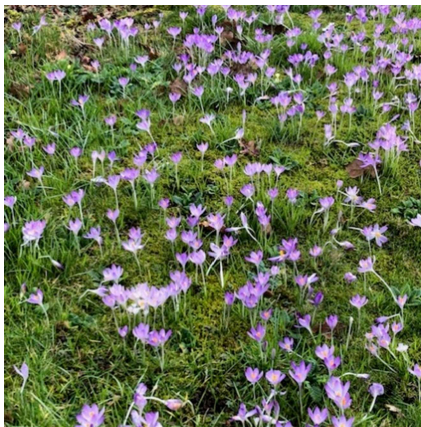
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HALFORD VILLAGE HALL








Table Tennis usually meets every other Monday. A good group of players who come and play just for fun. For detail's please contact Di Byard-Jones

Dibjones1@gmail.com

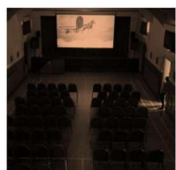
Yoga classes take place on Tuesday evenings. For detail's please contact Deborah Parke

lazycatyoga@btinternet.com

01789 740321


Third Wednesday every month Coffee Morning with Homemade Cakes 10.30am till 12pm



First Thursday every month Film Night 7.30pm, bring your own drinks & nibbles

See Village Website for details

<https://www.halfordvillage.uk/evenings-with-film>



You can hire our hall for your own parties, weddings, functions or day/evening classes

To book the hall please ring Muriel Parr 01789 740857 or email halfordvillage@gmail.com

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